

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 FAA-00 L-03 SS-15

NSC-05 TRSE-00 /054 W

-----172028 081424 /44

R 171708Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2847

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ROME 2658

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, IT

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - DISCRIMINATION AT ROME AIRPORTS

REF: STATE 35270; ROME 1888

1. DR. POSTIGLIONE, GENERAL MANAGER OF SOCIETA' AEROPORTI DI ROMA (SAR), INFORMED EMBOFF ON FEB. 17 THAT (A) SAR HAS REBILLED ALITALIA FOR ALL PAST DUE USER CHARGES BACK TO JULY 1, 1974 WHEN SAR WAS ESTABLISHED; (B) ALITALIA INFORMED HIM ON FEB 16 THAT IT IS NOW PREPARING TO MAKE FIRST PAYMENT TO SAR; (C) ALITALIA STEERING COMMITTEE HAS DECIDED NOT TO APPEAL CASE AND (D) FINAL JUDICIAL RULING (SENTENZA) SHOULD BE ISSUED WITHIN ABOUT ONE WEEK.

2. POSTIGLIONE SHOWED EMBOFF COPY OF SAR LETTER REBILLING ALITALIA FOR PAST FEES. BRIEF INSPECTION INDICATED BILLING IS FOR ABOUT 12 BILLION LIRE PLUS INTEREST (OVER \$13 MILLION). POSTIGLIONE OBVIOUSLY CONSIDERED CASE CLOSED AND THAT JUDICIAL DECISION MERE FORMALITY. HE EXPLAINED THAT LAZIO REGIONAL ADMINISTRATION TRIBUNAL (TAR) DECISION ON JAN. 31 WAS AN ORDER (ORDINANZA) REVOKING ITS OWN EARLIER ORDER, OF FEB. 17, 1975 WHICH SUSPENDED ALITALIA'S OBLIGATION TO PAY SAR WHILE THE CASE WAS UNDER REVIEW.

3. POSTIGLIONE ADMITTED THAT ALITALIA STILL PROVIDED ABOUT HALF

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OF ITS GROUND HANDLING SERVICES (INCLUDING CATERING). HE EXPLAINED THAT HE WAS BY NO MEANS ANXIOUS TO TAKE OVER ANY TIME SOON RESIDUAL SERVICES STILL PERFORMED BY ALITALIA BECAUSE (A) SAR STILL NEEDED TO CONSOLIDATE AND UPGRADE OPERATIONS IT HAD ALREADY ASSUMED AND (B) SAR WOULD LOSE MONEY. HE CALCULATED THAT ADDITION LABOR COSTS WOULD BE 18 MILLION LIRE PER YEAR AND LEASE PAYMENTS ON ALITALIA HANGAR SPACE ETC. WOULD BE 4 MILLION LIRE WHILE

INCREASED GROUND HANDLING FEES WOULD COME TO ONLY 10 MILLION LIRE.
NEVERTHELESS, HE SAID, HE COULD TAKE OVER ALITALIA GROUND HANDLING
IF THE AUTHORITIES SO ORDERED BECAUSE LAW 755 OF NOV. 19, 1973
SPECIFIES THAT SAR WILL CONTROL ALL GROUND HANDLING AND BECAUSE
HE COULD, UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES, WORK OUT SOME COMPENSATORY
ARRANGEMENT TO COVER THE OPERATING DEFICIT INVOLVED.

4. POSTIGLIONE AGREED TO MEET AGAIN IN A WEEK OR TWO.BEAUDRY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, CIVIL AVIATION, FEES, AIRPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 17-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ROME02658
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770057-0645
Format: TEL
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770231/aaaabbve.tel
Line Count: 70
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Message ID: 539c17c5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 35270, 77 ROME 1888
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3295404
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIVAIR - DISCRIMINATION AT ROME AIRPORTS
TAGS: EAIR, IT, NATIONAL AIRLINES, ALITALIA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/539c17c5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009